



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE RED CROSS

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

LAST HONORS

BY EDNA L. FOLEY, R.N.

[Miss Foley chanced to be in France at the time of Miss Delano's death, passing through on her way to Italy. Before proceeding with her journey she wrote the following account for the JOURNAL, knowing that these details are what all who loved Miss Delano would be longing to hear.—Ed.]

As all know by this time, Miss Delano died on April 15, at Base Hospital No. 69, in Savenay, where she had been ever since she first arrived there ill, on February 10th.

Savenay is a large hospital center, about twenty miles from St. Nazaire, the nearest embarkation point. It began originally with one base hospital, now it has eight, each of which has its own hospital personnel, although Base No. 100 has no nurses,—it has convalescents only, and two nurses go up daily to do the dressings. There were over 1,400 patients and over 200 nurses at No. 69 alone, to say nothing of the Medical Staff, corps men, and other workers. About 10,000 patients can be cared for in the eight hospitals.

Savenay is one of the large centers like Brest and Bordeaux, that have grown up since the signing of the Armistice. It is miles back from the fighting line, but as rapidly as the northern hospitals can be evacuated, the men are transferred to the nearest embarkation point and one by one, other units were sent to Savenay, until it became the huge place it is now.

Miss Delano had a small room on the ground floor of the nurses' barracks, just next to the nurses' sitting room. She was given the best possible care and it will comfort all to know that nothing that science or skill or love could have thought of was left undone. For her four operations, the sitting-room was made into a perfectly equipped operating theater, so that it was never necessary to carry her across to the hospital. Two specialists, en route for home, remained over for several weeks to help her and the surgeons and consultants in daily attendance thought of everything.

The nurses can't say enough about the attention shown Miss Delano by all of the officers, particularly the doctors who cared for her,—Capt. Eugene M. Orr, A.M.C., of Nashville; Capt. Tranton, A.M.C., formerly of Boston; Major Craig, A.M.C., of New York, and Major Pepper, A.M.C., of Philadelphia. She deserved it all, but it is pleasant to know that they, too, felt the charm of her very unusual personality. They admired her courage and nerve, too, for she never complained,



Miss Delano at Her Desk

was always pleased with her care, and faced each one of her four serious operations so bravely. She thought very little of herself, except in so far as she was impatient to get busy. In fact, her last words were about her work.

Miss Kerr reached Savenay late on Saturday afternoon, April 12, after some very strenuous work on the part of Miss Waters, of Miss Hall's staff in Paris. Miss Delano recognized her, but she could only talk a few minutes before taking the anaesthetic for her fourth operation. Three hours later, when she had recovered from the ether, she said to Miss Kerr, "Who is doing your work in Washington, while you are away?" She seemed satisfied with the answer, but in a moment roused herself and with some of her old energy, she exclaimed, "But what about my work? I must get to my work." These were her last words. She seemed to rest quietly, all day Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, until the end came, without pain, at half-past eight o'clock that night.

The body lay in her room until 8.30, Friday morning, when it was taken to the Red Cross auditorium, the casket borne by eight enlisted men and guarded by six nurses. It was covered by a large American flag and placed directly before the stage. Behind and around it were placed the flowers, twelve large sprays, two wreaths, and loose flowers in profusion, from the American Red Cross at Paris, the nurses of the various Units, and given for various groups at home.

By nine o'clock, the nurses began coming, and the large hall which holds 2,000 people seemed almost filled when the service started promptly at half-past nine.

Chaplain Gilbert O. Miller, of the 309th Engineers, read the Episcopal burial service. Before the lesson, we sang, "Lead, Kindly Light," and after the prayers, "Abide With Me," of which Miss Delano was very fond. Ruth Spencer, Base Hospital No. 69, an Albany Hospital graduate, played the accompaniment. Captain Miller then made a brief address in which he sketched briefly Miss Delano's work in the Red Cross. He said in part:

The presence of so many nurses impels me to speak of the life of one who made possible the organization you represent, Miss Delano, sometime Chief Nurse of the Army Nurse Corps, and Director and organizer of the Department of Nursing of the American Red Cross. This most important department is due to the work and effort and foresight and genius for organizing, on the part of her whose death we mourn to-day. With rare foresight she saw that there would be need for nurses in Red Cross service and planned the division, as it is to-day. As we reflect on this life, while we admit our sorrow, our hearts are lifted in thankfulness that she was given, has lived and wrought, and that we have the benefit of her wonderful life. We are in the shadow of Easter-tide, the earth is responding everywhere to the promises of the resurrection. Beautiful as was the flowering of this life, it was but the beginning of a larger and fuller life with

God. This life was as it was because she had so constantly in her heart the spirit of the Master. There are not many who are so endowed with personality as she was, but each nurse here has her God. Given talents and like her, will you not take that which God has given you and go out to serve in the name of the Master? Her life is an inspiration; if you continue it in her name and spirit, only the mathematics of eternity can measure the extent and usefulness of it. In the spirit of the Master, in the noblest of professions, the ministry of nursing (sometimes I think there is nothing like it), go on with her work. For Miss Delano, death is but the translation into a new and larger life, a coronation for new and greater service over there.

After the address, the casket was carried by soldiers to a flag-covered caisson. The casket and driver's seat were almost concealed by the flowers. A company of soldiers lining the road presented arms as the body was borne out to the gun-carriage. The procession then formed as follows: the band of the 309th Engineers, the military escort, the caisson with the ten pall-bearers, the four honorary pall-bearers, the nurses representing the American Red Cross and the Army Nurse Corps, both in France and America, and Army nurses from nine different Base Hospitals.

The honorary pall-bearers were Col. Webb E. Cooper of Nashville, Tenn., the Commanding Officer of the Hospital Center at Savenay; Lt. Col. John S. Coulter of Philadelphia, Executive Officer of Savenay; Lt. Col. Alexander L. Begg, Commanding Officer of Base Hospital No. 88, and Lt. Col. Edward Napier, Sanitary Officer of Savenay. The nurses followed in rows of four—Lillian D. Wald, Anna W. Kerr, Carrie M. Hall (from the Paris office of the A. R. C.) and Edna L. Foley, in the first row; Julia C. Stimson, Director, Nursing Service, A. E. F.; her first assistant, Nina Shelton; Catherine Sinnott (St. Thomas, Nashville), Chief Nurse of Savenay Hospital Center, and Anna Johnson (Wesley Hospital, Chicago), Chief Nurse of Base Hospital No. 69; all the eight were Red Cross nurses, the last four also A. N. C.

The nurses marched in Units, each one led by its Chief Nurse. First came Martha Havens (assistant to Miss Johnson) and the nurses of Base Hospital No. 69; then Base Hospital No. 88, Chief Nurse, Loretta Flannery; Base Hospital No. 113, Chief Nurse, Julia Clarke; Base Hospital No. 119, Chief Nurse, Ethel Allen; Base Hospital No. 214, Chief Nurse, Mary G. Garvin; Base Hospital No. 118, Chief Nurse, Eietta Worcester; Base Hospital No. 101 from St. Nazaire, Chief Nurse, Edna Hunt; Base Hospital No. 34 from Nantes; some nurses on leave from other bases; Reconstruction Aides from each base, and officers and men. There were more than 500 nurses in the march and about 50 aides.

The line of march was up the road, through the grounds past the

main hospital building and over a small incline to the mortuary. The band played Chopin's funeral march and as the long line passed slowly by, every man in khaki—and there were hundreds of them—stood at attention as the caisson passed; small French boys in their black school pinafores doffed their caps and stood at the salute; a French officer saluted, and a poilu put down his heavy bundle before he did likewise. The flag before the main hospital building (formerly a boys' school) was at half-mast. Beneath it in the gateways and windows were crowds of wounded soldiers and convalescent patients. As we wound out of the gate and turned up the hill between high stone-walls, we passed a typical French scene, a row of small stone houses with thatched roofs, before which stood two old Breton peasants, in white head-dresses, and some boys and girls. Savenay, as you know, is in Brittany.

Hard as it was to lose Miss Delano in this way, it seemed fitting that the nurses, whom she had organized, the soldiers for whom they were enrolled, and the people whom both had crossed the ocean to help, should have surrounded her at the last.

As the procession wound up the hill, it passed several groups of German prisoners (all marked with a large P. W., or prisoner of war), all of whom saluted. When it reached the mortuary, the guard presented arms and the band played "Nearer My God To Thee," as the nurses filed up to form a crescent-shaped group, just beyond the small building. As the casket was carried inside, the Chaplain read part of the Committal Service, after which the brief rites were over.

Soldiers will guard the house until word is received from General Pershing, for permission has been asked to send the body home for final burial in Arlington. Of course there will be many memorial services at home, but none can be more beautiful, nor more reverently carried out, than that at Savenay. I wish that all her near friends could have seen it. Every detail was remembered. The officers were untiring in their efforts to pay every respect to Miss Delano's memory. The whole service was singularly beautiful. There was no confusion, nothing to be remembered at the last moment. The sun shone all the time and the blue sky, the soft green of the trees, and the brown, freshly turned earth of the ploughed fields, seemed as part of our last tribute to a great American nurse. The rows and rows of one-story barracks and the canvas tents of the huge cantonment lie in the midst of peasant cottages and small farms. There are hills in the distance, but for the most part, the landscape rolls gently with here and there trim gardens, walled-in fruit orchards, or a short, lazily-revolving Brittany wind-mill. The strictly American camp, lying in the midst of this peaceful French country scene, emphasized to us again the

reason why we had the French tri-color and the American stars and stripes side by side in our Red Cross auditorium.

TRIBUTES TO JANE A. DELANO

Many cablegrams and telegrams have been received in Washington regarding the death of Miss Delano, giving expression to the great esteem in which she was held and the heartfelt sorrow occasioned by her loss. Some of these follow.

From President Wilson:

In common with all who were acquainted with the work of Miss Jane A. Delano, I most deeply and sincerely deplore her loss. She devoted herself in the most unselfish manner to a great work, and gave her life for it.

From Secretary of War Baker:

No man in the Army of the United States at home or overseas can fail to revere the merciful woman who assisted in alleviating sufferings of wounded or in easing last hours of those who were fatally stricken. As one faithful and potent and capable in that ministry our gratitude for all time is due to the late Miss Delano.

From Surgeon General of the Navy, Braisted:

I am writing to advise you that it is with deep regret that I learn of the death of Miss Jane A. Delano.

From Dr. Livingston Farrand of the Red Cross Commission in France:

I cannot express the loss which the American Red Cross has suffered in the death of Miss Jane A. Delano, Director General of the Department of Nursing. Not only her long service both before and during the war, but her broad sympathy, her sincerity and her judgment made her one of the most striking and valuable figures in the entire history of the American Red Cross. She cannot be replaced. I need not add on behalf of the entire personnel of the American Red Cross, the expression of personal bereavement which the thousands who have worked with Miss Delano feel at her loss.

From Henry P. Davison of the Red Cross Commission in France:

The news of the death of Miss Jane A. Delano, Director General of the Department of Nursing, American Red Cross, is a shock not only to the people throughout the United States, but to many thousands of her friends in Europe who knew of her international work. She was a commanding and noble woman. Serving as a full volunteer throughout the war, and for many years before the war, as Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service, Miss Delano recruited nurses both for duty with our army and with the Red Cross.

The value of what she did for our cause can never be measured. Appreciation of her individual services will grow as the knowledge of the work done by nurses during this war becomes more known to the world. She was beloved by all who knew her, and of those who worked with her it may be said that they learned quickly to respect her ability, to be inspired by her fervor, and to realize that no one was ever more truly animated with the spirit of the Red Cross. I am sure it can be said of Miss Delano that her thought from beginning to end was never for herself, but was for the service of humanity.

From Brigadier General Francis A. Winter, Medical Corps, U. S. A.

In the death of Miss Jane Delano at Base Hospital No. 69, Savenay, France, on April 15, America lost a superb woman, a great organizer, and a real patriot.

Miss Delano's life was one of self-sacrifice and her assumption of that quality began long before the real danger of war confronted us. From a most creditable career as a trained nurse and as Superintendent of Nurses at Bellevue, New York, she came to the Army in 1908 in response to an appeal from the Surgeon General for help in reorganizing and reconstituting the Army Nurse Corps. In this work she went forward steadily and quietly to a most successful result and when she left in 1912 for a larger field of endeavor, her impression on the service abided as a great asset.

In turn she took over the direction of the Red Cross Nursing Service, and her strong qualities of mind and heart brought this service into the state which made it a force of inestimable worth to the country when war was declared against Germany. It was her earnest, forceful work, backed by her charming personality, which put at our command the thousands of splendid women who so blithely and cheerfully went to France and England or to our camps in this country. The average soldier, who was the beneficiary of this great blessing, probably knows nothing of the fine woman who directed the procurement of the nurses who helped him so much, but if he knew the whole story Miss Delano might so easily get an enshrinement in his heart, in some measure comparable to that which Florence Nightingale got in the hearts of the Englishman in the Crimea.

Miss Delano died in the service of her country, and to one knowing her resolute, beautiful nature, it may well seem that it is just in that way she would have elected to die. While on an official visit to France, in her capacity as Director of the Nursing Service, American Red Cross, she contracted middle ear disease, which eventuated in a fatal brain abscess. Desperately ill for some weeks, she died far from home, but surrounded in a great army hospital by nurses and soldiers for whom she had so generously and faithfully worked.

To those who knew her well it would seem appropriate that some fitting memorial, in the Red Cross Building in Washington, should mark the scene where a great spirit carried on a great work of love and helpfulness.

From Dr. Franklin Martin, Chairman General Medical Board, Council of National Defense:

Miss Delano served as a member of the Committee on Nursing of the General Medical Board of the Council of National Defense. She was always a faithful attendant, enthusiastic in her tender of service, and one of the most influential members of our Board. Personally, I wish to express great regret for the loss of this strong and patriotic woman.

From Professor C. E. A. Winslow, Yale University:

The profession of nursing, from Florence Nightingale to Edith Cavell, has been rarely fortunate in its leaders. At times of grave crisis, there has always been found the woman to meet the emergency; and the service of Jane A. Delano in the great war was a new demonstration of a glorious tradition. As head of the Nursing Service of the American Red Cross she bore one of the heaviest responsibilities of the war. She bore it so well that whatever unavoidable complications might occur in other branches of the service, there was never for one moment a

shortage of the nurses it was her business to supply. She did her immediate work with wisdom and patience and decision. She looked beyond it to the possibilities of Red Cross Service to the cause of public health in peace time and, in the working out of plans for decentralizing her organization, she builded with vision for the future. Her personality lent dignity and power to the profession which she represented and gave it a worthy voice in the councils of the nation. Both her profession and her nation will remember her with pride and admiration as a great figure in a great period of the world's history.

From President H. M. McCracken, Vassar College:

The death in active service of Jane A. Delano at Savenay, France, on April 15, brings to a close one of the most remarkable careers in the history of America's efficient womanhood. It is generally conceded to-day that the highest human abilities are associated, not with the imaginative or the constructive powers, but rather with the capacities for management. Certainly, while our country has had many inventors and law-makers, she has had few endowed by nature with the tact, the patience and the will of the great administrator. Of this class Miss Delano—if my association and friendship with her entitles me to hazard the prediction—will be among the foremost. To a vigor of mind and body which was apparently limitless, she added an independence of spirit and a strength of character which would have made her a leader in any profession. She possessed also the inestimable gift of understanding and sympathy for the plans and hopes of others, even in the profession for which she had worked so long. In action she was bold and resourceful, and had this quality of the ideal administrator,—that she assumed and acknowledged full responsibility for all decisions.

From the beginning of her career, when, in advance of medical science, she insisted upon the use of mosquito netting for her yellow fever patients in the south, up to the day of her death, when, with the survey of American nursing complete, and the great record of the war behind her, she was engaged upon a survey of nursing for France, Miss Delano was in advance of her time and of the standards of her profession—a leader always.

From first to last throughout the war one of her principal tasks was the study and patient sifting of ideas presented to her for the increase of the nursing service and its efficiency, and her wisdom in dealing with the situations which arose was unfailing.

Miss Delano's service—always as a volunteer—in the capacity of direction of the Department of Nursing of the American Red Cross, included some of the most important steps in the history of nursing in this country. Her work as the second superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps was one of the chief factors in maintaining the efficient relations which have existed between that body and its reserve supply, the American Red Cross Nursing Service. Through the various offices she filled in the associations of nursing she was able to bring about a complete coördination with the American Nurses' Association, the Red Cross and the Army Nurse Corps. Her registration of nurses in the Red Cross was of the greatest value at the outbreak of war. The experts from the War Department who investigated her office at the beginning of hostilities, stated that no recommendation could be made regarding improvements, as it was already established along the most efficient lines. The Red Cross nurses, it is stated in a letter to me by Miss Maxwell, of the Presbyterian Hospital, were the only body of women so organized that they could be called upon for immediate action on the declaration of war. There have been, approximately, ten thousand five hundred Red Cross

nurses in service over-seas, and the total number of nurses employed in the war in all services is twenty-five thousand two hundred and forty-two. The credit of this splendid army of front line fighters in the ranks against death and disease is due to the group of devoted and able administrators of whom Miss Delano was the recognized head.

Miss Delano's greatest gift was undoubtedly her ability to coöperate, and the magnanimity with which she trusted her subordinates and associates with the responsibility for their tasks. She carried throughout her work the principles of decentralized responsibility which made the Red Cross efficient in the war. She coöperated to the utmost with the Committee on Nursing of the Council of National Defense, and thus this Committee and the National Committee on Nursing of the Red Cross were able to function without the slightest conflict throughout all the months of war. In proportion as she reposed confidence in others, she won and retained their confidence and loyalty. The nursing profession is to be counted fortunate in having for so many years as one of its recognized leaders a woman whose practical experience in the most dangerous fields of its service developed a sympathy, tolerance and largeness of view, and who, at the same time, retained the spirit of energetic initiative with which she had begun her work.

The memory of that commanding presence,—the womanly face crowned with snow-white hair, the eyes radiant with energy and hope,—will remain with her friends and associates in the American Red Cross and elsewhere. Equally vivid will be her record upon the page of history as protagonist in the struggle which created and maintained the standards of American nursing. Her chief memorial is the administration from her room in the American Red Cross at Washington of the greatest army of relief ever mobilized.

Messages of appreciation and regret were also received from Miss Dock, secretary of the International Council of Nurses; Miss Goodrich, Dean of the Army School of Nursing; the president, secretary and treasurer of the American Nurses' Association; the president and secretary of the National League of Nursing Education; the president and secretary of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing; from the Red Cross nurses in Italy through Miss Shaw and Miss Gardner; from the National Committee to Secure Rank for Nurses; from the Joint National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service; from the nurses of the Base Hospital, Camp Hancock, Ga.; from the nurses of the Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D. C., and many other associations and individuals.

AS KNOWN BY HER FRIENDS

BY MARY E. P. DAVIS

I.

I am able to call to mind distinctly my introduction to Jane A. Delano, which happened so many long years ago. Early one fair morning, such as we have sometimes in Philadelphia if we happen to live there, when I went to the office after breakfast, I was told by the door man that a lady was waiting to see me, in the Board room. "Shall I show her into the office?" he asked. Quite contrary to my

custom, I answered, "I will see her in the Board room." On my entrance, the lady arose and said, "This is Miss Davis?" Yes—she presented her card and explained that Miss Brennan of the Bellevue Training School for Nurses, by request of Dr. John S. Billings, had desired her to come over to Philadelphia in regard to the position of Assistant Superintendent of the Hospital and Training School for Nurses, of the University of Pennsylvania, which had been vacant for some time. Handing her a chair, not the one she had occupied on my entrance, that was not in a favorable light for me, I requested her to be seated, and said: "Let me know just what you have heard about the position, just what is attractive in it to you, what you think may be difficult to readjust or overcome." She gave her objective in a clear, concise manner, coming to the point without any long preamble or waste of words. "You know something of the conditions that obtain in the hospital and training school; does it appeal strongly enough to you to undertake it and 'burn your candle at both ends,' as the work here will require?" I asked. "It is pioneer work of the most unsatisfactory kind—reorganization; there is so much undoing before one can shape the new system." She decided to accept the position and return at once to New York and make the necessary arrangements and let me know just when to expect her. Again, contrary to my custom, I accompanied her to the door as she left, stood there and looked at her as she walked across the campus; she looked neither to the right nor left nor back toward the hospital. I should have been surprised if she had; some way I did not expect her to. She had every appearance of physical youthful development in coloring, figure and gait; in fact she was a beautiful girl; I did not think of her in terms of maturity, at the same time she impressed me as having mental development much beyond her years. I remembered that during our interview there was not a line in her face, so there was no change in her facial expression; one had a sort of inner sense that there was approval or disapproval, but it was not visible. She had no fussy, nervous, fidgety mannerisms and seemed free from self-consciousness. Her voice, if a little deep, was smooth and pleasing, showing no excitability or emotion and was only saved from being monotonous by her clear enunciation and correct accent. She brought to me no disturbing element, and as I stood there I could but wonder if that were her normal attitude or only assumed for the occasion; afterward I found with slight variation it was quite normal. I frankly admit that I had one misgiving, and that was that even more speedily than her predecessor, she would be telling me some evening that she would have to resign, as she was engaged and expected to be married in a few months. Time proved my fears groundless. She came according

to schedule and tacitly took up the duties of superintendent of nurses. Fortunately we had both been trained in schools not under the jurisdiction and management of the hospitals, so it was comparatively easy for us to divide the responsibility and settle the bounds of authority without having any hard and fast rules or limitations, but not so easy for the hospital authorities and the medical staff, so that Miss Delano received complaints or orders for the hospital and I for the training school. She had no ambition to be the head of the hospital; there was nothing beyond. She had latent powers to develop and the training of nurses was only a step to higher, freer development of those qualities. Meeting emergencies, unexpected changes in program, shortage of nurses, inadequate supplies, extravagant demands, all came to her during her six years at the University of Pennsylvania. It stood her in good stead in her after life. She might go to the limit of her authority, she never overstepped. We were both on our mettle, being our first venture in hospital and training school administration and reorganization. We early realized that no hospital could be considered first-class, whose nursing personnel was not of the highest type and that no training school could be maintained in a high state of organization and efficiency in an illy conducted and badly administered hospital. So for six years we set ourselves to the task of bringing our different departments up to our ideals. We had many fundamental life governing principles in common. She was self contained and self sufficient, consequently not dependent on outward circumstances or conditions, always careful not to build on another's foundation. She was not a seeker after praise; it was sufficient if no blame were attached. In recounting her part in carrying through a difficult proposition, she never said, "Do you think I did well?" but, "Do you blame me?" She was self controlled to a degree in one so young and attractive, and as far as our social proclivities went, we might have been of the same age, so what we might claim as our domestic life in an institution, was intimate, congenial and most companionable. To me Miss Delano never changed, she only developed. Opportunity came for entrance into broader, freer fields and she accepted what she knew she was fitted for. The rest of her life work is known the world over, but I will never cease to be glad that I knew her intimately in that early formative period when she gave promise of all that she has since achieved, and that my estimate of her was not below the result.

Oh! silent lips, the lessons thou hast taught us, we tell
through falling tears;

Oh! noble life, what blessings thou hast brought us,
through all thy busy years.

II.

BY SOPHIA F. PALMER, R.N.

My acquaintance with Jane A. Delano extends over a period of about thirty years, beginning at the time when she was an assistant to Miss Mary E. P. Davis at the University Hospital in Philadelphia. Miss Delano, as I knew her then, was very reserved,—I might even say, cold.

I lost touch with her during the years which intervened between her leaving the University Hospital and becoming superintendent of Bellevue. On resuming my acquaintance with her, I was deeply conscious of the great expansion in her personality which had taken place in the meantime and which, with the years, became so striking a feature in her success. It was in that interval that she had had the experience of the supervision of young girls and of private duty nursing, which, in its most successful form, develops the humanitarian side of a nurse's character. This broad experience formed an excellent background for Miss Delano's later work with the Red Cross.

I was more or less closely associated with her in Red Cross work from the time of the Minneapolis meeting, in 1909, until she died. The impression left in my mind of her work as Chairman of the National Nursing Committee is, first of all, her intense Americanism, her sense of fairness, her desire to have the members of the Committee satisfied with the plans she proposed, her willingness to listen to and accept suggestions which she believed were right, and her courage to stand against those which she thought would be detrimental to the highest efficiency of the service.

To help win the war and to give adequate care to the sick and wounded was her religion from the day that war was declared. Next to that came her aspiration to have the rank and file of the American Nurses' Association satisfied with her work as their representative in the Red Cross.

To sit aside in her office and watch the people who called in the course of a day, afforded an excellent opportunity "to get the atmosphere" of her Department, as Miss Delano expressed it. Whether it was a high official of the Army, the wife of an ambassador, or some nurse who was going through Washington to meet her detail, each was met with the same cordiality and graciousness; and each departed with the same feeling of satisfaction and inspiration. Her good judgment, too, was apparent in the selection of the women whom she called from different parts of the country, to help carry on the work of the Red Cross office.

Like all our high officials, Miss Delano met with constant and persistent opposition, and she was conscious of an undercurrent

beyond her power to control. This made her task, which at its best was difficult, much harder than it need have been. Perhaps I can pay her no higher tribute than to say that, in spite of all this, she illustrates, both physically and intellectually, what is meant by growing old gracefully. In fact, we never thought of her as getting old.

To be sure, Miss Delano was human, with the faults and virtues common to us all, but she met a great emergency with such poise, courage and ability as to make her during the war the most conspicuous figure in the profession. As time passes, we shall more fully appreciate the value, both in the profession and to the world, of the varied aspects of her life.

III.

BY GEORGIA M. NEVINS, R.N.

Those who knew Jane A. Delano in her public work, only, were often impressed by her radiant personality, her unusual poise, and her remarkable ability for getting things done,—yet it was in the every-day life of her home that she was most charming.

I grew to love her dearly, not only for her goodness to me, but because of her personal charm, her interest in all that pertains to home life, her love of animals, of flowers, of music and her almost childlike enjoyment of the simplest pleasures. A strong sense of humor carried her through many trying situations and she loved both to hear and to tell a good story. She was rarely idle, rest to her meaning only change of occupation. She worked deftly and swiftly, making every moment count, and she played, when not overburdened as in the last year, with the same thoroughness. An excellent house-keeper in methods familiar to New England where her forefathers lived, she was interested in the smallest details of her household when the responsibilities of her office were not too heavy and she looked forward eagerly to the brief half holidays, that she might work in her "garden," mend, or "toss up," as she would say, some delicacy with the utmost ease. It was a pleasure to watch the motion of her hands, which were so capable and efficient. She was very orderly as to her personal belongings, papers, etc., but at the same time delightfully inconsistent, if, for instance, her pet bulldog desired to occupy the best sofa pillows. He adored her and from the moment her car turned into our street he was at the door with a rapturous greeting. She professed to have forgotten how to nurse, yet I shall never forget when she carried me off bodily to her home, put me to bed and cared for me herself with wonderful tenderness, skill and resourcefulness.

Her love of country was intense. She rarely spoke of our boys overseas without a break in her voice, and on a night that an extra

stated wrongly that peace was declared, all three of us burst into tears, such was the tension under which we had been working. Miss Delano was often at her best in every respect when surrounded by her friends, especially of the Red Cross Nursing Service, in her own home.

A devoted friend wrote of her: "She was a very exceptional character, so steady, so straight, so whole-souled in all that she did; so absorbed in her wonderful service that she was an inspiration to those who came in contact with her. She died in the service of her country, and I believe because of the devotion to her duty she gave to our soldiers. She said to me once, 'The Red Cross is a religion to me,' and she gave her life for that religion. If death had to claim her when there was still much that she could have done, yet I am thankful that she lived to see the war ended and had the realization of what her many years and devoted preparation meant to the country she loved so deeply, that she could not speak of it without the tears coming into her eyes."

IV.

BY ANNA M. KERR, R.N.

(Extracts from a personal letter, received as we were closing our pages.)

Miss Delano never showed her greatness of character more than in this last illness; her gentleness, reasonableness and strength impressed everyone. She did not complain, but tried in every way to help the doctors and nurses who were working for her. She longed to go home.

All the impressions I have of her in those last days were like messages which I wish I could translate to her friends who are carrying on her work,—but you would know how like a soldier's would be her attitude and acceptance of what was inevitable.

As the Red Cross has requested that we abide by the Government regulations prevailing at present, we shall wait until such time as it is permitted to bring her home, and I shall stay in Savenay. The larks are singing and the wild flowers are blooming everywhere, so you must think of her in the midst of what she loved.